

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01302 150954Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /090 W
-----096428 151318Z /46

R 150330Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3578
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1302

TOKYO FOR RFA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP GUAM PASS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PP, XU
SUBJECT: PNG FISHERIES PROBLEMS

REF: PORT MORESBY 1252

1. I TALKED TO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR
PRIMARY INDUSTRY CHAN ABOUT FISHING LICENSES AT LUNCHEON
GIVEN BY FONMIN OLEWALE TODAY. CHAN WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE
MODERATE IN HIS APPROACH THAN OLEWALE (REFTEL).

2. CHAN SAID HE UNDERSTANDS OUR PROBLEMS WITH A BILATERAL
AGREEMENT. HIS PROBLEM IS THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE TO
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NEGOTIATE WITH EACH TUNA BOAT OR EVEN WITH EACH TUNA
COMPANY. HE WANTS TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH SOME GROUP OR
ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD SPEAK FOR ALL US TUNA BOATS IN
PNG AND WHICH WOULD BE ABLE TO POLICE ITS OWN BOATS. HE
SAID HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT A PRECEDENT HAS BEEN SET
WITH THE JAPANESE AGREEMENT AND HE COULD NOT JUST IGNORE
THAT PRECEDENT.

3. I ASKED HIM IF HE WAS THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THE TUNA BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION. HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THAT ORGANIZATION WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE OR NOT. I MENTIONED THAT NEW ZEALAND HAD FACED A SIMILAR PROBLEM IN HAVING NEGOTIATED SOME BILATERALS BUT IS HAVING TO DEAL WITH US FISHING BOATS INDIVIDUALLY. I SAID THAT I UNDERSTOOD THAT NEW ZEALAND WAS SETTING UP JOINT VENTURES WITH US FISHING COMPANIES SO THAT US BOATS WOULD COME UNDER NEW ZEALAND LAW. HE SAID THAT WOULD BE WORTH CONSIDERING.

4. COMMENT: FONMIN OLEWALE APPARENTLY OVERSTATED (OR MISSTATED) THE GPNG POSITION REPORTED IN REFTEL. HE SOMETIMES SHOOTS FROM THE HIP, AND SOMETIMES GOES WIDE OF THE MARK. CHAN APPEARED TO BE EXPLORING THE SITUATION WITH AN OPEN MIND. HE WAS MUCH MILDER THAN OLEWALE. I HOPE DEPARTMENT HAS ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS THAT WE CAN PUT TO CHAN TO MEET HIS REQUIREMENTS. THERE MUST BE PRECEDENTS THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT HERE. BELIEVE MOST DIFFICULT POINT MAY BE SELF-POLICING REQUIREMENT, AND HOPE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO SUGGEST WAYS OF MEETING THIS POINT.

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